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July 29, 2020

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting four new cases today with a primary residence in Charlevoix (1), Emmet (2), and Otsego (1) counties. Case investigations and contact tracing are in progress.

Per Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-153, face coverings or face masks are required in all indoor spaces and in crowded outdoor spaces. To continue to reduce your risk of COVID-19, reusable face coverings should be properly cleaned and disinfected after every use. It is especially important if the face covering became visibly dirty or wet. It may be helpful to have multiple face coverings so you have one to wear while another is being washed. Never wash disposable face masks.

- **If you're using a washing machine:** You can include your face covering with your regular laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the face covering.
- **If you're washing by hand:** (1) Prepare a solution by mixing four teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water. Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection (some bleach products are not) and is within the expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner. (2) Soak the face covering in the bleach solution for five minutes. (3) Rinse thoroughly with cool or room temperature water. (4) Always fully dry your face covering before wearing again. You can lay it out to air dry or use a dryer on the highest heat setting.

"Proper care of face coverings (ex. mask, bandanas, etc.) is just as important to reduce the spread of COVID-19," stated Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director. "Face coverings should be properly stored and washed between use to ensure effectiveness. Face coverings continue to be proven effective and the best, low-cost method of protection for yourself and the community."

As of 4:00pm, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 31, Charlevoix – 39, Emmet – 50, Otsego – 113
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 19, Charlevoix – 21, Emmet – 22, Otsego – 93
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 2, Emmet – 2, Otsego – 10.

The State of Michigan has reported 80,172 cases and 6,172 deaths.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department jurisdiction by liking and following our Facebook page and visiting our COVID-19 Data Dashboard. To locate a testing facility, visit the Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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